

**REMARKS**

The present claims relate to a paint composition for leather, a method of producing a coated leather, and a coated leather.

***Amendment summary***

Upon entry of this Amendment, Claims 1-2, 6-9, 11, 13, 15, 17, and 19-29 will be pending.

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of Claims 3 and 4, which are canceled. Claim 1 is further amended to recite the matting agent is present in an amount of at most 50 parts by weight. Support for this amendment is found, e.g., on page 15, lines 2-4 of the present specification.

Claim 2 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of Claims 5 and 10, which are canceled. Claim 2 is further amended to recite the matting agent is present in an amount of at most 50 parts by weight. Support for this amendment is found, e.g., on page 15, lines 2-4 of the present specification.

Claims 6 and 11 are amended to provide proper antecedent basis.

Claims 8 and 15 are amended to recite that the leather is a natural leather or an artificial leather.

Claims 9 and 17 are amended to positively recite the structures therein.

Claims 12, 14, 16, and 18 are canceled as being redundant.

New claims 19-29 are added. Support for these claims may be found, e.g., in the following passages of the specification.

Claim	Support
19	Page 2, line 25 to page 3, line 4
20	Page 2, line 25 to page 3, line 4
21	Page 3, line 7
22	Page 3, lines 7-11
23	Page 4, lines 1-5
24	Page 4, lines 6-8
25	Page 12, lines 6-7
26	Page 12, line 7 to page 13, line 1
27	Page 10, lines 16-20
28	Page 14, lines 18-19
29	Page 14, lines 20-22

No new matter is added by this Amendment, and Applicants respectfully submit that entry of this Amendment is proper.

*Status of the claims*

Claim 1 is twice rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by each of EP 939,105 and EP 978,537. In addition, Claims 1 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by each of JP 04-293982A, JP 02-158675A, JP 04-31474A, JP 04-285680A, JP 02-158672A, Mabuchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,572,871), and Hirashima et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,684,074 A). Claims 1 and 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by DE 3438645A1. Also, Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Mabuchi et al (U.S. Patent No. 4,631,206).

Claims 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over each of JP 04-293982A, JP 02-158675A, JP 04-31474A, JP 04-285680A, and JP 02-158672A. Claims 1 and 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Requejo et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,511,489).

Claims 1-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as allegedly being non-enabled. Claims 1-18 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as allegedly being indefinite.

Finally, Claims 9 and 17-18 are objected to as allegedly failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim.

***Response to rejections based on prior art***

Applicants respectfully note that the subject matter of Claims 3 and 4 have been incorporated into independent Claim 1, and that the subject matter of Claims 5 and 10 have been incorporated into independent Claim 2. The combined subject matter of independent Claim 1 and Claims 3 and 4 and the combined subject matter of independent Claim 2 and Claims 5 and 10 were not rejected under any of these headings. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections set forth in the Office Action are moot.

Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the prior art rejections.

***Response to rejection of Claims 1-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 112***

Applicants respectfully submit that the present claims, which recite particular amounts of each material present in the paint compositions, are definite and are enabled by the present specification. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this § 112 rejection be withdrawn.

*Response to rejection of Claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 112*

With respect to the rejection of Claim 1, the position set forth in the Office Action is that it was unclear as to the types and amounts of fluorine-containing resins and silicone oils encompassed by the claim. Applicants respectfully submit that the present claims are clear, in that the amounts of each compound are presently recited.

With respect to Claims 6 and 11-12, the position set forth in the Office Action is that the phrase "the leather paint composition" lacks proper antecedent basis. Applicants respectfully disagree. As amended, claims 6 and 11 refer to the "paint composition" of claims 1 and 2, respectively. Claim 12 has been canceled.

With respect to Claims 8 and 15-16, the position set forth in the Office Action is that it was unclear as to the difference between an artificial leather, a synthetic leather, and a vinyl leather. In response, claims 8 and 15 have been amended to recite that the leather is a natural leather or an artificial leather, although Applicants note that an "artificial leather" includes a synthetic leather and a vinyl leather. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the amended claims are clear and definite.

With respect to Claims 9 and 17-18, Applicants respectfully note that Claim 18 is canceled, and Claims 9 and 17 have been amended to remove the recitation that the leather "is used." Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection with respect to Claims nine and 17-18 has been rendered moot.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request that this § 112 rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

*Response to objection to Claims 9 and 17-18*

As noted above, Claim 18 is canceled, and Claims 9 and 17 have been amended to remove the recitation that the leather "is used." Also, claims 9 and 17 which recite that the coated layer forms part of an interior of a building construction, an interior of a vehicle, etc., further limit the claims upon which they depend. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this claim objection.

*Conclusion*

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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